

APRIL EDUCATION RECAP

Brad Anderson, CGCS Associate Editor



I have always thought that the geese on my golf course are just too lazy and indolent to migrate with the more conscientious minded geese. But according to our April meeting speaker, Carla Wagner of Wild Goose Chase, the geese that are overwhelming the golf courses and parklands of Illinois are actually a species of non-migratory geese. Their non-migratory status and place of residence is imprinted to the place of their hatching.

Carla Wagner, biologist of Wild Goose Chase, finishes up the education outside at Indian Lakes Resort.

The Giant Canada Goose was a threatened species that our Federal Government reintroduced to our area in the 1960's. The success of this program has been incredible: the average nesting pair of Giant Canada geese clutches 4-6 eggs every year with a 90% survival rate. In five years, one pair of Giant Canada geese can easily become a flock.


All that property managers may legally do to mitigate the health, environmental, and recreational nuisance that these vermin are causing is to harass them or apply for a permit to addle the eggs as they are laid each spring.

Egg addling is best achieved by shaking the eggs to destroy the yolk, or by dipping them into corn oil to suffocate the embryo. Both methods are very effective for stabilizing the Giant Canada goose population, but egg addling must be done before the eggs are two weeks old.

In Illinois you must apply for a permit each year to shake or dip the eggs. The contact person for applying for your permit is:

Roy Domazlicky
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2050 W. Stearns Rd.
Bartlett, IL 60103
Phone: (847) 608-3100, Ext. 2031
FAX: (847) 608-3109

Give yourself plenty of time to apply for your permit. I applied for my 2007 permit in November of 2006, and I received it in February. It is a good idea to mark your calendar today as a reminder to apply for your permit this fall.

Successful egg addling occurs at a time when we are generally most preoccupied by a multitude of daily goals and objectives, so you may need to adjust your work schedule and labor budget in April to assure that you will have the adequate number of trained staff on hand to locate the nests for addling the eggs. 

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